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Senate

The Senate met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we have often stumbled into Your presence not sure why we have come, and yet You continue to show us Your compassionate mercy.

Inspire the Members of this body today with faith, hope, and love. Renew their spiritual vision so that they will continue to please You. Protect them from pride, and deliver them from confusion. Inspire them to persevere. Answer the perplexing questions they face, as You fill them with Your healing spirit.

May they express their gratitude to You by their faithful deeds. Grant them this day the grace to praise You with their lives.

We pray in Your life-changing Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this afternoon, we have an order for a period for the transaction of morning business so that Senators can come to the Chamber to introduce legislation and make statements.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

I now ask unanimous consent that the period extend until 5:20 p.m., with the time equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at 5:20 p.m., we have an order to proceed to executive session to consider the nomination of Francisco Besosa to be U.S. district judge for the District of Puerto Rico. The agreement provides for 10 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the nomination, which will occur at 5:30 p.m.

I have said repeatedly over the last days and weeks that we will be finishing our work at the end of this week. Accordingly, I ask for the cooperation of all of our colleagues as we bring together a lot of legislation that has been produced over a long period of time, but over the course of the week it will be a challenge to consider all of that legislation. It is going to take cooperation and working together to allow us to continue to govern with these meaningful solutions, challenges, and issues which have been set before us.

We have the pending border fence legislation that we will need to complete. We have legislation relating to the terrorist tribunals, the military commissions, the Hamdan decision that will be considered and finished prior to adjournment. In addition, we have several conferences that will be

completed in the next several days—Defense appropriations and Homeland Security appropriations—that we absolutely must finish this week as well. Other legislation, such as port security, is being worked on very aggressively, and I believe we should be able to finish that bill and bring it to the floor as well.

We have a very small window in which to complete our business over the next 6 days. I have said our intention is to finish on Friday, although if we are unable to do that, of course, we will be here on Saturday to wrap things up. I will update my colleagues over the course of the week on progress that is being made and how that affects plans. At this point, cooperation is key and flexibility with people's schedules will be key in order that we get our work done and leave at the end of the week.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 3925, S. 3929, S. 3930, S. 3931

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I understand there are four bills at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bills by title for the second time.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3925) to provide certain authorities for the Secretary of State and the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3929) to authorize military commissions to bring terrorists to justice, to strengthen and modernize terrorist surveillance capabilities, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3930) to authorize trial by military commissions for violations of the law of war, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 3931) to establish procedures for the review of electronic surveillance programs.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings en bloc.

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard. The bills will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The assistant majority leader.

ARMY RECRUITING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, we may not see it on the front page, but there is good news. Last Friday, the U.S. Army met its annual recruiting goal more than a week ahead of schedule. This will cap the Army's best recruiting year since 1997.

Let me repeat that. The Army will be completing its best recruiting year in almost a decade—this despite all the gloom and doom we have heard about young people not wanting to serve their country in the war on terror.

On Friday, in New York City, Shirley Salvi, a 23-year-old graduate of Rutgers, joined the Army as the 80,000th soldier to enlist this year. That is 80,000 soldiers this year. She will report to Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri to become either an Army linguist or intelligence analyst.

In spite of all the danger and all the hardship and sacrifice involved, thousands of young Americans, such as Ms. Salvi, are stepping forward to say: I will defend my country.

We have an All-Volunteer Army, and it is the best in the world. While the enemy fights solely to instill fear and death, our soldiers fight for the hope and opportunity that only comes with liberty.

Before the fiscal year is over, the Army anticipates having a total of 504,000 soldiers—an increase of 12,000 from last year. The Army Reserve and Army National Guard also expect to meet their recruiting goals for this year. This increased recruiting comes even as administrators in a number of institutions of higher learning and even some high schools remain openly hostile to military recruiting on campus.

Retention in the Army also shows encouraging signs. In July of this year, GEN Pete Schoomaker, Chief of Staff of the Army, noted that the reenlistment rate for two of the divisions deployed in Iraq was over 140 percent. One of those divisions, I am proud to report, is the 101st Airborne located in my home State of Kentucky.

I think what this good recruiting and retention news reflects is basically three things:

First, it reflects the patriotism and commitment of today's youth. The generation coming of age today has grown up with the war on terror, and they understand its importance. They understand the need to defend America's values. They understand what is at stake, and they want to do their part by volunteering to protect the Nation from al-Qaida and others who would do this Nation harm.

Second, I think this good Army recruiting news reflects the recognition

by today's youth that a career in the military is, indeed, a noble calling. In fact, it is hard to think of anything more honorable than serving and protecting America.

Third, the achievement of the Army's recruiting goal a week early sends a strong signal to our allies and our enemies in the war on terror. It shows that the American people are resolute in defending our Nation and in defending freedom.

I must say, I take some pride in this good news about recent recruiting numbers since the U.S. Army recruiting command is located at another base in my State, Fort Knox. The command is doing a great job for America.

I salute Ms. Salvi and the thousands of other volunteers like her who have joined the Army this year. I thank them for their patriotism and for their future service on behalf of our country.

OVERSIGHT HEARINGS ON IRAQ AND THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I wish to say a few words about oversight hearings on Iraq and the global war on terror.

Just last week, our good friend, the Democratic leader, complained that there has not been "a single oversight hearing, none." That was our good friend, the Democratic leader, saying there hasn't been a single oversight hearing on Iraq and the global war on terror. But the Senate has conducted scores of hearings on Iraq and related issues since 2003. For example, the Armed Services Committee held more than 20—20—hearings on such topics as military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, operations and strategy in Iraq, and Iraq-Afghanistan and the global war on terrorism. That is 20 hearings by the Armed Services Committee alone. The Foreign Relations Committee has held more than 30 hearings in the past 3 years, including hearings on post-Saddam Iraq, on the status of and prospect for Iraq reconstruction, Iraq's transition to sovereignty, and post-transition Iraq. That is 30 hearings by the Foreign Relations Committee on Iraq and the war on terror in the last 3 years. And then there is the Judiciary Committee, the Banking Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee hearings. All told, more than 80—80—hearings have been held on Iraq and related issues.

I ask unanimous consent that a listing of all of these hearings to which I just referred indicating the Senate has engaged in extensive oversight on the war in Iraq and the war on terror over the last 3 years be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE HEARINGS

UN Weapons Inspector's Report, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/30/2003)

Post-Saddam Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/11/2003)

Afghanistan and the War on Terror, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/12/2003)

Post-Conflict Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 2/26/2003)

Aid to Turkey and Issues in Northern Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/5/2003)

Reconstruction of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/11/2003)

Political Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/13/2003)

Diplomacy and the War on Terrorism, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/18/2003)

An Enlarged NATO: Moving Forward on Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/29/2003)

Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/22/2003)

Repercussions of Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction Policies, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 6/12/2003)

Status and Prospects for Iraq Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/23/2003)

Review of Iraq Policy and Issues, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/23/2003)

Review of Iraq Policy and Issues Updated, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/24/2003)

Security and Democracy in Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 10/16/2003)

Afghanistan Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 1/27/2004)

Iraq Stabilization and Reconstruction, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/9/2004)

Effect of Madrid Attacks on U.S. European Cooperation, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 3/31/2004)

Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/20/2004)

Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/21/2004)

Iraq's Transition to Sovereignty, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 4/22/2004)

Afghanistan, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/12/2004)

Iraq: The Way Ahead, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/18/2004)

Iraq: The Way Ahead, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2004)

Post-Transition Situation in Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 7/22/2004)

Accelerating U.S. Assistance to Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 108th Congress (Event Date: 9/15/2004)

Reshaping U.S. Policy in Iraq and Middle East, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 2/1/2005)

Iran: Weapons Proliferation, Terrorism and Democracy, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 5/19/2005)

Iraq Ambassador Nomination, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 6/7/2005)

The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/18/2005)

The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/19/2005)

The Future of Iraq, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 7/20/2005)

Iraq and U.S. Foreign Policy, CQ Committee Hearings, 109th Congress (Event Date: 10/19/2005)